

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-90 (canceled)

Claims 91-123 (withdrawn)

Claim 124 (previously added) An isolated polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of a DNA sequence encoding a *Neisseria* surface protein, wherein said *Neisseria* surface protein:

- (i) is resistant to proteinase K, and
- (ii) has an apparent molecular weight of 22 kDa,

wherein said polypeptide is antigenic.

Claim 125 (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 124, wherein said polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 126 (withdrawn)

Claim 127 (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 124, comprising amino acids 31 to 55 of SEQ ID NO:2 and which is antigenic.

Claim 128 (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 124, comprising amino acids 51 to 86 of SEQ ID NO:2 and which is antigenic.

Claim 129 (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 124, comprising amino acids 110 to 140 of SEQ ID NO:2 and which is antigenic.

Claim 130 (previously added) The isolated polypeptide of claim 124, wherein said polypeptide is free from other proteins of *Neisseria* origin.

Claims 131-132 (withdrawn)

Claim 133 (previously added) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 124.

Claim 134 (previously added) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 133, which is a vaccine.

Claim 135 (previously added) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 134, comprising a pharmaceutical excipient.

Claim 136 (previously added) A method of preventing infection by a *Neisseria* pathogen, comprising administering an effective amount of the vaccine of claim 134.

Claim 137 (previously added) The method according to claim 136, wherein said pathogen is a *Neisseria meningitidis*.

Claims 138-169 (withdrawn)

Claim 170 (previously added) The vaccine of claim 134, which further comprises an adjuvant.

Claim 171 (previously added) The vaccine of claim 170, wherein the adjuvant is a liposome adjuvant.

Claim 172 (previously added) The method of claim 136, wherein the vaccine further comprises an adjuvant.

Claim 173 (previously added) The method of claim 172, wherein the adjuvant is a liposome adjuvant.

Claim 174 (previously added) An isolated polypeptide from the surface of *Neisseria* bacteria which is resistant to proteinase K and has an apparent molecular weight of 22 kDa and is antigenic.

Claim 175 (previously added) The isolated polypeptide of claim 174, wherein said polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 176 (previously added) The isolated polypeptide of claim 124, wherein said polypeptide consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 177 (previously added) The isolated polypeptide of claim 124, consisting of amino acids 51 to 86 of SEQ ID NO:2 and which is antigenic.

Claim 178 (previously added) The isolated polypeptide of claim 124, comprising amino acids 110 to 140 of SEQ ID NO:2 and which is antigenic.

Claim 179 (previously added) The isolated polypeptide of claim 124, consisting of amino acids 31 to 55 of SEQ ID NO. 2 and which is antigenic.

Claim 180 (previously added) The isolated polypeptide of claim 124 having an antigenicity effective for use as a vaccine.

Claim 181 (previously added) The isolated polypeptide of claim 174 having an antigenicity effective for use as a vaccine.

Claim 182 (new) An isolated polypeptide of claim 124, wherein said polypeptide is capable of eliciting antibodies that are specific to said polypeptide

Claim 183 (new) An isolated polypeptide of claim 124, wherein said polypeptide is capable of eliciting bacteriolytic antibodies against *Neisseria meningitidis*.

Claim 184 (new) An isolated polypeptide of claim 174, wherein said polypeptide is capable of eliciting antibodies that are specific to said polypeptide

Claim 185 (new) An isolated polypeptide of claim 174, wherein said polypeptide is capable of eliciting bacteriolytic antibodies against *Neisseria meningitidis*.

Claim 186 (new) An isolated polypeptide of claim 124, wherein said hybridizing is at 42°C with a solution comprising 50%-formamide.

Claim 187 (new) A composition comprising an isolated polypeptide of claim 124, which is free of any other *Neisseria meningitidis* polypeptide, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 188 (new) A composition comprising an isolated polypeptide of claim 174, which is free of any other *Neisseria meningitidis* polypeptide, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.